

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EUR-12

IO-10 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 AID-05 /078 W

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O R 260440Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1368

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

WHITE HOUSE

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 15794

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VS, US

SUBJ: INTERFAITH GROUP CHARGES U. S. WITH FAILURE TO HONOR  
PARIS AGREEMENT

DEPT FOR S, EA, S/P AND P

WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC

REF : SAIGON 15787

FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE "PASTORAL LETTER" ISSUED BY  
THE SO-CALLED INTERFAITH GROUP:

BEGIN TEXT:

A PASTORAL LETTER TO THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES OF THE UNITED  
STATES.

TWO YEARS AGO WE SPOKE IN REPUDIATION OF UNSPEAKABLE  
BARBARITY, THE CHRISTMAS BOMBINGS OF HANOI, SUMMONING THE  
SENSITIVE OF HEART TO PROTEST THAT MOST IMMORAL ACT OF THE  
IMMORAL WAR. UNPRECEDENTED NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL OUTRAGE  
HELPED TO BRING THOSE BOMBINGS TO A HALT, AND THE PARIS PEACE  
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AGREEMENTS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY SIGNED ON JANUARY 27, 1973. A WAR-

WEARY WORLD ASSUMED THAT THE SIGNING OF PEACE AGREEMENTS WOULD BRING PEACE. BUT THE AGREEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN HONORED.

AND SO THERE IS NO PEACE.

WE SHY AWAY FROM THIS HARD TRUTH. WE HAVE NOT BEEN SEDUCED BY LEADERS WHO TELL US THAT PEACE HAS COME TO SOUTHEAST ASIA. IT HAS NOT. ECHOING OUR LEADERS' CRY, WE HAVE BEEN GUILTY OF ECHOING THEIR FALSEHOOD. AS IN THE DAY OF JEREMIAH:

FROM PROPHET TO PRIEST,  
EVERYONE DEALS FALSE....  
SAYING "PEACE, PEACE,"  
WHEN THERE IS NO PEACE.

(JER. 6:13-14)

THERE IS NO PEACE. THE WAR GOES ON. AMERICAN BOMBS ARE STILL DROPPED FROM AMERICAN AIRPLANES ON VIETNAMESE TARGETS.

THERE IS NO PEACE. THE WAR GOES ON. AMERICAN FUNDS AND AMERICAN PRESTIGE SUPPORT A DICTATORSHIP IN SOUTH VIET-NAM THAT ARRESTS AND TORTURES DISSIDENTS.

THERE IS NO PEACE. AMERICAN AID CONTINUES PLACING HIGHER PRIORITY ON FEEDING THE WAR IN INDOCHINA THAN FEEDING THE HUNGRY IN BANGLADESH, THE SAHAL AND ELSEWHERE.

THERE IS NO PEACE. THE WAR GOES ON. WE SUPPLY THE DOLLARS, THE GUNS, THE TANKS, THE PLANES, THE BOMBS. EVERYTHING BUT THE CORPSES. THE CORPSES ARE VIETNAMESE.

OF THOSE WHO CRIED "PEACE, PEACE," WHEN THERE WAS NO PEACE, JAHWEH ASKED, "WERE THEY ASHAMED WHEN THEY COMMITTED ABOMINATION?" AND HE ANSWERED HIS OWN QUESTION, ""NO, THEY WERE NOT AT ALL ASHAMED; THEY DID NOT KNOW HOW TO BLUSH."  
(JER. 6:15)

NO MORE ARE WE AT ALL ASHAMED, NO MORE DO WE KNOW HOW TO BLUSH, EVEN THOUGH WE TOO COMMIT "ABOMINATION", AND OUR UNCLASSIFIED

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NATIONAL LIFE IS A LIE: "THERE IS NO PEACE."

WHY IS THIS SO? AS WE APPROACH THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENTS, THE UNPALATABLE TRUTH WE CHOOSE TO IGNORE IS THAT WE HAVE FAILED TO HONOR THE AGREEMENTS WE PLEDGED TO HONOR. OUR SLOGAN WAS "PEACE WITH HONOR." OUR REALITY IS "NO HONOR, THEREFORE NO PEACE." THIS IS OUR "ABOMINATION." THAT IS WHY THE WAR GOES ON.

TWO YEARS AGO WE PLEDGED "TO RESPECT THE INDEPENDENCE, SOVEREIGNTY, UNITY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF VIET-NAM". (ARTICLE 1) WE HAVE NOT DONE SO.

TWO YEARS AGO WE PLEDGE: "THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT CONTINUE ITS MILITARY INVOLVEMENT OR INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SOUTH VIET-NAM." (ARTICLE 4)

WE ARE STILL MILITARILY INVOLVED AND WE INTERFERE CONTINUOUSLY, PROVIDING MORETHAN 80 PERCENT OF THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT BUDGET.

TWO YEARS AGO WE PLEDGED THAT OUR ADVISORS "TO ALL PARA-MILITARY ORGANIZATIONS AND THE POLICE FORCE" WOULD BE WITHDRAWN. (ARTICLE 5) THEY ARE STILL THERE.

TWO YEARS AGO WE PLEDGED "THE DISMANTLEMENT OF ALL U. S.) MILITARY BASES IN SOUTH VIET-NAM." (ARTICLE 6) THE MILITARY BASES ARE STILL THERE, BUT TURNED OVER TO THE VIETNAMESE.

TWO YEARS AGO WE PLEDGED THAT WE WOULD "NOT IMPOSE ANY POLITICAL TENDENCY OR PERSONALITY ON THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE." (ARTICLE 9) WE DO SO EVERY DAY.

TWO YEARS AGO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARTIES PLEDGED TO "ENSURE THE DEMOCRATIC LIBERTIES OF THE PEOPLE: PERSONAL FREEDOM, FREEDOM OF SPEECH, FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, FREEDOM OF MEETING, FREEDOM OF ORGANIZATION, FREEDOM OF POLITICAL ACTIVITIES, FREEDOM OF RESIDENCE, FREEDOM OF WORK..." (ARTICLE 11) THE THIEU REGIME, WHICH WE SUPPORT, DENIES THOSE FREEDOMS CONSISTENTLY AND AS A MATTER OF POLICY. THE REGIME COULD NOT UNCLASSIFIED

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SURVIVE WITHOUT OUR HELP.

TWO YEARS AGO WE PLEDGED TO "PUT AN END TO ALL MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN CAMBODIA," AND TO ALLOW THAT COUNTRY TO SETTLE ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS "WITHOUT FOREIGN INTERFERENCE." (ARTICLE 20) WE HAVE NOT PUT AN END TO SUCH ACTIVITY; OUR FOREIGN INTERFERENCE CONTINUES.

TWO YEARS AGO WE PLEDGED TO "CONTRIBUTE TO HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR AND TO POSTWAR RECONSTRUCTION OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM AND THROUGHOUT INDOCHINA." (ARTICLE 21) WE LACERATE THOSE WOUNDS AND CONTINUE THE DESTRUCTION OF INDOCHINA, WHILE WITHHOLDING REAL AID FOR RECONSTRUCTION. THE BLOOD THAT CEASELESSLY FLOWS THERE IS ON OUR HANDS. EVEN IN THE FACE OF THAT CRIMSON REBUKE, WE DO "NOT KNOW HOW TO BLUSH."

IT IS NOT ONLY IN VIET-NAM THAT WE FRUSTRATE THE WILL TO PEACE. WHAT WE DO THERE OPENLY WE DO ELSEWHERE ALMOST AS OPENLY. VIET-NAM, RATHER THAN BEING AN EXEPTION TO OUR FOREIGN POLICY, HAS BECOME AN EXAMPLE OF IT. WE INTERVENE ELSEWHERE, WE GIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO MILITARY DICTATORSHIPS ELSEWHERE, WE BRIBE REACTIONARY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ELSEWHERE, WE PROVIDE PLANES AND BOMBS TO DESPOTIC REGIMES ELSEWHERE, WHETHER THE PLACE BE SPAIN OR KOREA OR CHILE. OTHER NATIONS LOOK AT SUCH ACTIONS WITH MOUNTING CYNICISM AND DISTRUST. WHY SHOULD THEY TRUST US? OUR DEEDS BELIE OUR WORDS.

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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WHITE HOUSE

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 SAIGON 15794

DEPT FOR S, EA, S/P AND P

WHITE HOUSE FOR NSC

HAVING SPOKEN BEFORE, WE MUST SPEAK AGAIN. WE CALL THE NATION TO ACTION ONCE AGAIN. WE THEREFORE SUMMON THE MEMBERS OF THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES OF OUR NATION TO A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO SAVE THE PEACE AGREEMENT, IN WASHINGTON, D. C. FROM JANUARY 25 TO JANUARY 27, 1975, THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT IN PARIS. WE MUST COMMUNICATE TO OUR LEADERS AN URGENT DEMAND THAT THIS NATION LIVE UP TO ITS PLEDGED WORD AT PARIS BOTH BY IMPLEMENTING ITS UNKEPT PROMISES AND BY CEASING CURRENT ACTIONS, SUCH AS MASSIVE MILITARY AID TO THE OPPRESSIVE THIEU REGIME, A

LIVING DENIAL OF THAT PLEDGED WORD.

IN THE TWO YEARS SINCE THE SIGNING OF THE PEACE AGREEMENT WE HAVE WITNESSED SIGNIFICANT MOVEMENT IN CONGRESS TOWARD THE GOAL OF FINALLY ENDING U.S. INTERVENTION IN INDOCHINA. IN AUGUST OF 1973 CONGRESS ENDED U. S. BOMBING OF CAMBODIA. CONGRESS ACKNOWLEDGED THE EXISTENCE AND INHUMANE TREATMENT OF THOUSANDS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM AND VOTED TO PROHIBIT USE OF U. S. FUNDS FOR THE POLICE AND PRISON SYSTEM. IN SPRING 1974 CONGRESS REFUSED TO SUPPORT A REQUEST FOR SUPPLEMENTAL MILITARY AID TO SAIGON AND THIS SUMMER RESTRICTED MILITARY AID TO LESS THAN HALF THE AMOUNT REQUESTED BY THE ADMINISTRATION.

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PERSISTENT AND INCREASING PUBLIC PRESSURE MADE THESE ACHIEVEMENTS POSSIBLE. NOW IS THE TIME TO CONTINUE PRESSING FOR PEACE.

WE MUST SAY TO OUR CONGRESS: SELDOM IF EVER HAS A CONGRESS HAD SUCH OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE OUR NATION NEW DIRECTION. YOU ARE IN OFFICE IN RESPONSE TO AN ELECTORAL REPUDIATION OF THE POLITICS OF DOMESTIC DECEPTION. SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY, THEREFORE, TO REPUDIATE THE POLITICS OF INTERNATIONAL DECEPTION AS WELL. DO NOT CRY ANY LONGER, "PEACE, PEACE, WHEN THERE IS NO PEACE." INSIST UPON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS PEACE ACCORDS, SO THAT WE CAN CREATE A PEACE NOT AN "ABOMINATION."

THE TIMES ARE TOO PRECARIOUS TO SPEAK LESS PLEADINGLY.

WE MUST ALSO SAY TO OUR CONGRESS: WE INTEND TO HOLD YOU ACCOUNTABLE IN THIS MATTER. WE CALL ON YOU TO RENDER TRUE THE PEACE OUR PAST WORDS PROMISED AND OUR PRESENT DEEDS DENY.

WE MUST SAY TO OUR PRESIDENT: PROVIDE THE LEADERSHIP THAT CAN ACKNOWLEDGE THAT PEACE HAS NOT COME IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND WILL NOT COME UNTIL WE HONOR OUR PAST AGREEMENTS, REVERSE OUR PRESENT POLICIES, AND RE-THINK OUR FUTURE MILITARY AND FINANCIAL AID TO DICTATORIAL REGIMES. SAVE YOURSELF, AND US, AND MOST OF ALL THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, FROM FURTHER PROLONGATION OF THE WAR.

AND FINALLY, WE MUST SAY TO OURSELVES: OUR PAST CAUTION AND INACTION WERE FACTORS IN THE ESCALATION OF THE WAR IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. WE CONFESS THIS GREIVIOUS FAULT AND ASK FORGIVENESS--FORGIVENESS FROM GOD, AND ALSO FROM HIS CHILDREN, VICTIMIZED BY OUR TIMIDITY. WE DARE NOT, BY PERPETUATING A FEEBLE WITNESS, PERPETUATE A RUTHLESS WAR. AND SO, AS WE APPROACH THIS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, WE PRAY FOR A NEW INSIGHT AND FRESH COURAGE, SO TO SPEAK AND SO TO ACT THAT PEACE MAY TRULY COME. (END LETTER)

SIGNERS:

DR. RALPH ABERNATHY, PRESIDENT, S.C.L.C.

BISHOP JAMES ARMSTRONG, BISHOP OF THE DAKOTAS, UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.

REV. DAVID W. AUGSBURGER, NORTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

LLOYD BAILEY, CHAIRMAN, FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE.

HOWARD BARTRAM, GENERAL SECRETARY, FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE.

DR. EUGENE CARSON BLAKE

THOMAS R. BODINE, PRESIDING CLERK, FRIENDS UNITED MEETING.  
RABBI BALFOUR BRICKNER, UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS.  
DR. ROBERT MCAFEE BROWN, PROF. OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES,  
STANFORD UNIVERSITY.  
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BISHOP JOHN H. BURT, EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF OHIO.  
REV. WILLIAM SLOANE COFFIN, JR., CHAPLAIN, YALE UNIVERSITY.  
WALLACE COLLETT, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, AMERICAN FRIENDS  
SERVICE COMMITTEE.  
THE RT. REV. WILLIAM DAVIDSON, EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF W.  
KANASAS.  
THE RT. REV. ROBER DEWITT, THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH PUBLISING  
COMPANY.  
SR. DOROTHY DONNELLY, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL COALITION OF  
AMERICAN NUNS.  
REV. RICHARD R. FERNANDEZ, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST.  
N. LANAR GIBBLE, PEACE AND INTERFAITH AFFAIRS, REPRESENTATIVE  
FOR EUROPE AND MIDEAST, CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN.  
SISTER ANN GILLEN, NATIONAL INTERRELIGIOUS TASK FORCE  
ON SOVIET JEWRY.  
BISHOP THOMAS GUMBLETON, ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT.  
JOYCE HAMLIN, UNITED METHODIST WOMEN.  
DR. WALTER HARRELSON, DEAN DIVINITY SCHOOL, VANDERBILT  
UNIVERSITY.  
LORTON HEUSEL, GENERAL SECRETARY, FRIENDS UNITED  
MEETING.  
REV. WILLIAM HOLMAN, YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL  
BERNARD LEE, S.C.L.C.  
BISHOP JAMES K. MATHEWS, UNITED METHODIST CHURCH.  
RABBI DAVID A. MIRSKY, NEW YORK FEDERATION OF REFORMED  
SYNAGOGUES  
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DR. ROBERT MOSS, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
REV. RICHARD NEUHAUS, PASTOR, ST. JOHN'S EVANGELIST  
CHURCH.  
DR. CLAIRE RANDALL, GENERAL SECRETARY, NATIONAL COUNCIL  
OF CHURCHES.  
DR. ALEXANDER M. SCHINDLER, PRESIDENT, UNION OF HEBREW  
CONGREGATIONS.  
REV. JOEL THOMPSON, CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
SR. MARY LUKE TOBIN, CHURCH WOMEN UNITED  
SR. MARGARET ELLEN TRAXLER, DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE OF WOMEN TODAY  
DR. GEORGE WEBBER, CHAIRMAN, CLERGY AND LAITY CONCERNED  
DR. COLIN WILLIAMS, DEAN, YALE DIVINITY SCHOOL. END TEXT.  
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